Uplinking and downlinking of channels

3458. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has decided to streamline and expedite clearance process for applicants seeking permission for uplinking and downlinking of channels in the country;

(b) if so, whether any step has been initiated after her Ministry received complaints that a few individuals were posing as consultants claiming to secure such permission for applicants from her Ministry;

(c) whether Director, Broadcasting has been asked to hold a meeting on 5th of each month to entertain any difficulty that applicants are experiencing in getting clearances; and

(d) if so, the final decision in streamlining clearance process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Streamlining of process and expediting clearances is an on-going process. No such specific complaints were received in the Ministry regarding persons as Consultants. However, by way of abundant caution the Ministry has posted a notice on its website making it categorically clear that the Ministry does not recognize any such consultants and that they have no role in getting permission from I & B Ministry.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has placed a notice on its website for conducting the 'Open House' meetings on 5th of every month to clarify doubts and inform the participants about the status of their pending papers. Two meetings have been held by Director (BC), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, with the representatives of the companies during the months of November and December, 2009.

Foreign investment in broadcasting sector

†3459 SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that foreign capital investment is still allowed in various fields of broadcasting sector;

(b) if so, the fields of broadcasting sector and percentage of foreign capital investment allowed therein;

(c) whether a proposal to increase this investment further is under consideration;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present percentage of foreign capital investment out of the total investment in broadcasting sector?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.